

*21
cancel*
analyze information from the tags to determine the location of a user; and

obtain information about the route and direction of travel of the user through the facility.

Please cancel claim 20, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

*sub. B3
A3*
21. (Amended) A system comprising:
a plurality of wireless tags;
a wireless sensor associated with a user;
a processor associatable with a user; and
a storage coupled to said processor to determine the user's position based on information from said tags, said processor tracks the direction and movement of said user.

Please cancel claim 30.

REMARKS

Former dependent claims 10, 20 and .30 were rejected on the grounds that obtaining information about the route and direction of travel of a user is inherently included in the system since the user can be requested for location assistance.

However, even if the Examiner is correct that the system knows where the user is now, there is absolutely no teaching in the reference of keeping track of where the user has been. Namely, there is no suggestion in the reference to keep track of the places that the user has been including the route and direction of travel.

This information may be very useful in planning layouts of stores and learning the patterns and activities of customers. No suggestion of this feature is anywhere supplied in the reference.

For it to be inherently taught, the feature must be necessarily practiced by the disclosed apparatus. See M.P.E.P. §2112. Here, it is more likely that the server in the reference knows where the user was at any instance in time but does not store and correlate that information to determine the direction and path of travel of the user. Therefore, the claimed limitations cannot be inherently disclosed by the reference.

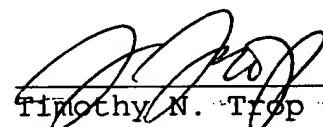
* * * * *

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/12/02





Timothy N. Trop
Registration No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]



APPENDIX

In the Claims:

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method comprising:

positioning a plurality of wireless tags around a facility; [and]

providing a sensor associated with a user to sense the tags to determine the position of the user in the facility; and obtaining information about the route and direction of travel of a user through the facility.

Please cancel claim 10, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to: *Sensor*
receive information from a plurality of wireless tags distributed about a facility; [and]
analyze information from the tags to determine the location of a user; and
obtain information about the route and direction of travel of the user through the facility.

Please cancel claim 20, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) A system comprising:
a plurality of wireless tags;
a wireless sensor associated with a user;
a processor associatable with a user; and
a storage coupled to said processor to determine the user's position based on information from said tags, said processor tracks the direction and movement of said user.

Please cancel claim 30.